What do security trends say about African countries' significance to U.S. interests in 5-10 years?



Project Title	What do security trends say about African countries' significance to U.S. interests in 5-10 years?
Project Summary	Interns will look online for multiple datasets or trend analysis that can be used as indicators of what security in different African countries will look like in five to ten years. Interns will then use more qualitative research to identify how U.S. interests will likely be impacted by these trends.
Country	Germany

Project Description

Many academic, policy, and development organizations conduct research on diverse angles of African security, such as arms sales and trafficking, environmental conflict drivers, criminal activity, violent extremist activity, violence towards journalists, the nexus of African resource markets and conflict, demographic shifts impacting and livelihoods and human security, ICT transformation and external interference impacting governance and political violence, etc. The intern will identify and catalogue these datasets, decide how to weight and combine them as a collective set of indicators, then analyze them to infer trends over the coming decade. This will conclude part one of the internship. Part two will use more qualitative research methods to explain how these trends impact U.S. interests over the same time period. The intern will provide a valuable external perspective re-examining what will the top five to ten U.S. interests in Africa will be in 2030. The intern should feel comfortable thinking creatively, working with ambiguity and complexity, and coming up with their own outside the box analysis and assertions. The intern should be prepared to think of ways to overcome research challenges and should be self-motivated. Interns are expected to give at least 80 hours of concentrated work between October and May in addition to email coordination.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

Data analysis

Research

Writing

Additional Information

Interns familiar with African studies or experience working in African environments are particularly well suited for this project.

Language Requirements

None